Budget provision for Dalli-Rajhara-Jagdalpur railway project

†*432. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the budget provision for tribal dominated Bastar district of Chhattisgarh in 2008-09 for proposed Dalli-Rajhara-Jagdalpur rail line, after completion of survey work; and

(b) the cost of this new line and time by when it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) An amount of Rs. 124.99 crore was provided in Railway Budget 2008-09 for Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat-Jagdalpur new line project.

(b) Cost of the line at 2004-05 prices was Rs. 968.6 crore. The project is likely to be completed in 2014-15 subject to completion of acquisition of the required land for construction of the new line by the Government of Chhattisgarh and availability of resources.

Madarsa Reform Programmes

*433. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of Madarsa Reform Programmes initiated by his Ministry; and

(b) whether his Ministry is constituting a Madarsa Board to oversee the Madarsa education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (SPQEM) encourages traditional institutions to voluntarily introduce modern subjects like Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Languages in their curriculum. It also encourages linkage of Madrasas with National Institute for Open Schooling (NIOS) to enable children studying in Madrasas get certification for class 5, 8, 10 and 12, transit to higher studies and also ensure quality standards akin to the national education system. Registration and examination fees to the NIOS and cost of teaching learning material is covered under this scheme. The NIOS linkage is also extended for Vocational Education at the secondary and higher secondary stage of Madarsas. For the monitoring and popularization of scheme, SPQEM envisages funding of State Madarsa Boards. During the year 2007-08 and 2008-09, 15 States/UTs were assisted under the Scheme by providing assistance of Rs. 9905.89 lakhs for 5297 madrasas and 10214 teachers in modern subjects.

(b) The proposal in regard to establishing a Central Madrasa Board, through an Act of Parliament, for standardizing the education in modern subjects of Science/ Maths, etc. which are non-theological, was proposed in a report of a National Conference organized by the National

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI). Since it is not a proposal initiated by the Government, any decision in this regard shall be taken only in the event of there being consensus among all stakeholders.

Problems relating to rainfed farming

†*434. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 152 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3 July, 2009 and state:

(a) the problems identified by Government with regard to rainfed farming;

(b) the programmes being formulated by his Ministry to resolve each of the problem;

(c) the total number of micro and macro watersheds identified under Integrated Watershed Management Programme in the country alongwith the number of such watersheds being developed, district-wise, particularly in Rajasthan; and

(d) the total area of rainfed land on which crop production has been insured as a result of the above programme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Rainfed agriculture is complex, risk prone and is characterized by low levels of productivity and input usage. Since, rainfed farming depends primarily on rainfall received during the monsoon period which varies widely in terms of distribution, extent and intensity, it witnesses wide range of uncertainty in production and productivity. The risks involved in rainfed farming does not encourage farmers for higher investment in agricultural inputs and this results in low cropping intensity & productivity.

(b) Government has accorded priority to the holistic and sustainable development of Rainfed areas. To address various problems of farming in the rainfed areas and to ensure a coordinated strategy for development, Government of India has established the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) in November 2006. For the promotion of rainfed farming, following watershed programmes are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development through an integrated watershed management approach.

Ministry of Agriculture

(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA).

(ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR).

(iii) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA). Ministry of Rural Development

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.